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MESMERISM IN INDIA.

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SECOND HALF-YEARLY REPORT

OF THE

CALCUTTA MESMERIC HOSPITAL,

From 1st March to 1st September, 1849,

CONTAINING ACCOUNTS OF

FORMIDABLE AND NUMEROUS PAINLESS SURGICAL OPERATIONS,

AND OF THE SUCCESSFUL ADMINISTRATION OF

MESMERISM IN INSANITY,

AND OTHER DISEASES:

TO WHICH IS ADDED,

REMARKS

ON THE CONDUCT OF THE ENGLISH MEDICAL JOURNALISTS, AND NEARLY THE WHOLE OF THE MEDICAL PROFESSION, IN REFERENCE TO THE GREATEST OF MEDICAL BLESSINGS:

WITH SOME

HINTS TO THE PUBLIC ON THE EMPLOYMENT OF MESMERISM AND ON MESMERISERS.

BY

DR. ELLIOTSON.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS

SECOND EDITION.

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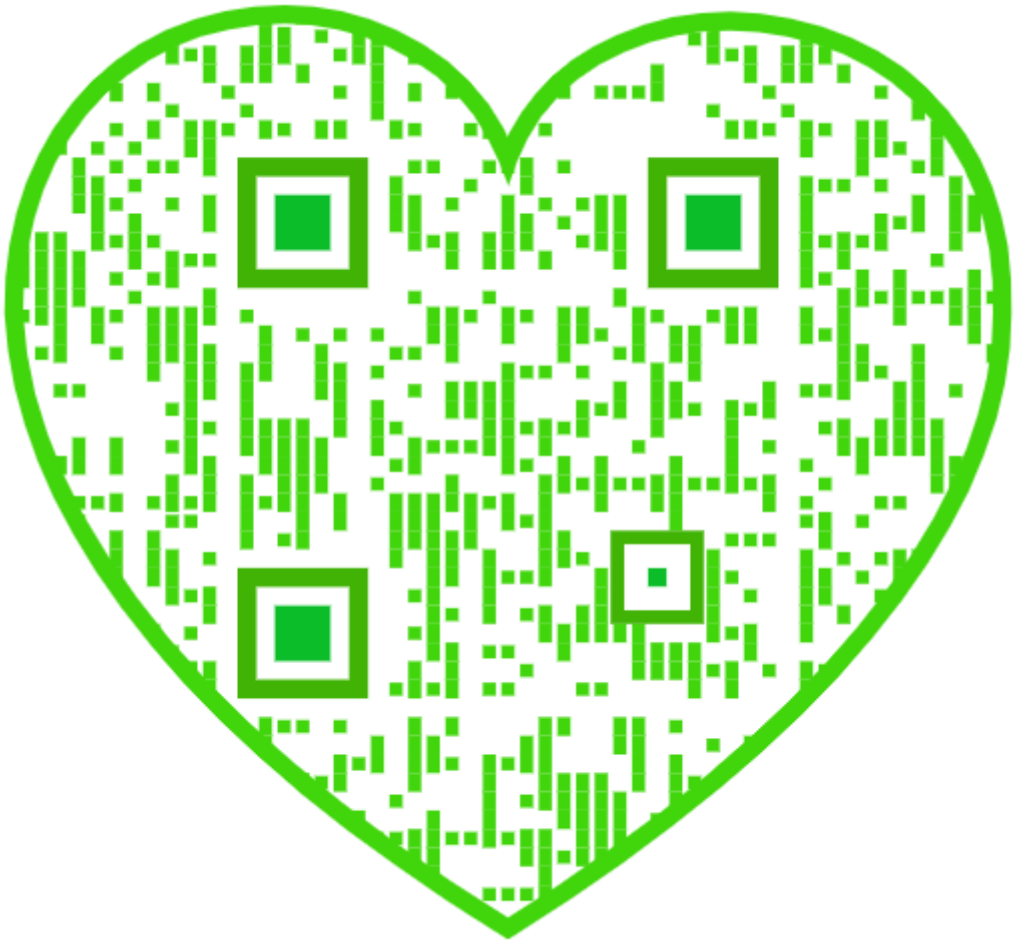

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An article by Dr. Esdaile, and another by Dr. Elliotson, in the last number of *The Zoist*, contained such important practical truths in relation to both medicine and surgery, so full a view of the attitude assumed by the medical profession against the blessings of mesmerism, such proofs of the danger of chloroform and the innocence of mesmerism, and such necessary advice to those who desire mesmeric treatment, that a friend to mesmerism has obtained permission to publish them by themselves in the form of a sixpenny tract.

London, Jan. 1, 1850.

SECOND HALF-YEARLY REPORT

OF THE

CALCUTTA MESMERIC HOSPITAL,

&c., &c.

"To Sir H. M. Elliot, James Hume, Esq., the Rev. Mr. La Croix, Dr. Martin, Rajah Kali Krishna, Rajah Sutt Churn Ghosal, Rajah Pertaub Chunder Sing, Baboo Ramapersaud Roy, Members of the Mesmeric Hospital Committee.

"Gentlemen,—I have the honor to present you with a summary of our proceedings during the last six months, which, it is hoped, will be sufficiently satisfactory to you and the subscribers to the hospital.

In the last six months have been performed.		Previous half year.
Severe operations	32	32
Mesmeric	31	31
Deaths	2	1
Miscellaneous minor operations	362	278
Dispensary patients prescribed for	1068	455

Average monthly expense including 20 Rs. a month to the Lunatic Asylum	377	ditto ditto without allowance to Asylum. .. Rs.	285

"*The two deaths were caused by cholera and lock-jaw.* Among these operations are:—

One Scrotal Tumor, weighing..	96 lb.	patient's age	50
One ditto	85 lb.	.....	60
One ditto	60 lb.	.....	50
One ditto	64 lb.	.....	30
One ditto	45 lb.	.....	58
One ditto	40 lb.	.....	28

"All of these cases have been discharged cured.

"Regarding the important point of ultimate mortality, our results are surely very striking and satisfactory, and well deserve the attention of the practical surgeons. *In one hundred* consecutive operations for scrotal tumors, *from the size of a man's head, to* 100 *and odd lbs.*, there have been only *five* deaths; but in no instance has death been caused directly by the operation, or followed soon afterwards, but at the distance of *many days or weeks*, in consequence of *lock-jaw, fever, cholera,* and *exhaustion* of the system; from what may be called hospital diseases and accidents. I very much doubt whether an equal number of consecutive amputations of a joint of the fingers and toes (in all states of the constitution) could be performed in any hospital with a smaller mortality than five per cent. arising from accidents in the course of the cure.

"This has been going on here for a period of *four years,* WITH ALL THE REGULARITY OF A LAW OF NATURE, and yet the medical profession are kept in total ignorance of it by their journals, *which dare not let the facts be known,* because the editors had long ago, in presumptuous ignorance, declared the thing to be *impossible.* But Calcutta is not Timbuctoo: public opinion will soon compel them to let the truth be heard, and, in the mean time, men will know what to think of a cause that can only be propped up by concealment and the suppression of evidence.

"If any persons in Calcutta still affect to disbelieve in the reality of painless mesmeric operations, it must be because they prefer doubt to certainty, ignorance to knowledge, and are afraid of having their infallible judgments corrected by the evidence of their senses. They have been publicly invited to come and see for themselves, if they cannot or will not believe the testimony of others, and, if they do not choose to accept this invitation, they must excuse my taking any farther trouble about them. Our success in rendering persons

insensible to the severest torture seems to increase with practice, and I have still the satisfaction to report, that *no one has ever seen an injurious symptom to attend or follow the induction of the mesmeric trance for surgical purposes.* Hundreds of spectators in this town can testify to this, and I might cite a score of medical men by name who have witnessed my operations, and call upon them to say whether anything could be, in general, more satisfactory than what they saw, and whether they would not always infinitely prefer gaining their object by mesmerism, rather than by any known means, if they had their choice. This I generally have, (and so may all who will use the same means); and I trust, that you, gentlemen, and the public, will not think me obstinate and hobby-horsical in holding to that which has been proved to be the best, and in *resorting only to inferior and hazardous agents,* when the *higher and always safe* power has disappointed me. I should despise myself, if, out of mere pertinacity and wrong-headedness, I continued to induce the public to spend their money in support of an antiquated worn out system; once of some utility but now only a HOBBY of a few unpractical speculators. But unless I greatly deceive myself, *I am nothing, if not practical;* and, if any doubt exists among the public and medical profession in India of the SUPERIORITY OF MESMERISM OVER ALL DRUGS WHATEVER, AS A MEANS OF INDUCING INSENSIBILITY TO PAIN, *I shall be glad to demonstrate the fact by comparative operations to any extent that may be deemed conclusive.* But, even if mesmerism were superseded by some perfectly innocent drug for surgical purposes, it would still be of great service to the surgeons in *the medical treatment of surgical diseases.* For, by its aid, he will often be able to save his patients much pain and distress during their cure, and will frequently even be spared the painful necessity of lopping off the limbs and organs of his patients to save their lives. Although many persons have little or even no pain after the operation, others suffer severely after an interval: but it is often in our power to extinguish the pain in a few minutes by throwing them back into the trance, and, on waking the second time, they have usually forgotten their first waking, and subsequent suffering, as two members of the committee, Dr. Martin and the Rev. Mr. La Croix, witnessed in the course of last month.

"It not unfrequently happens also that a second operation is required for the removal of mortifying parts: in these cases, the patients are very readily again entranced, and are quite callous to the breaking up of new adhesions, and the cutting through of granulating flesh. Or extensive wounds

take on a tendeney to *slough* or mortify, and under these eireumstances spunging the surfaee of the sore with undiluted nitric acid is very effeetual in stopping the disease. But the pain from this is so *horrible* when the sore is extensive, that one resorts to it with the greatest reluetance. Patients in this state, although in great pain, are usually very sensitive to the mesmeric influenee, and in a few minutes the most extensive sore may be eovered with the acid *without a sign of irritation in the whole body,* and, strange to say, the patient on waking is not only free from any feeling of burning in the part, but is relieved of the pain he was suffering from when he went to sleep. This singular result arises, I presume, from the eomplaining nerves of the surfaee having been effeetually *killed* in the absenee of eonsciousness, and, as dead nerves cannot tell tales, any more than dead men, the patient is as effectually relieved as a person who has had the nerve of his tooth burned with a red hot wire or nitric acid. Thence it oecurred to me,—'would not this be an effectual mode of preventing all re-action and pain in a wound after operation?' I have had only one opportunity of making the experiment sinee the idea occurred, but that was most eonclusive. A man who had a circle of troublesome excreseences, eireum anum, had them leisurely pared off with a knife and snipped out with erooked seissors, and then nitrie aeid was applied to the bleeding eireumferenee. The man did not awake till half an hour afterwards, and had *no pain* or burning in the part, *nor had he during his stay in the hospital.* The frequenters of our hospital are aware that mesmerism is often extemporaneously preseribed as the surest and *speediest* means of giving relief in many painful affeetions. The objeetion to the time it takes to affeet the eonstitution at first, is altogether futile in the subsequent treatment. The debility of eonvalesseence increases the suseeptibility of the system, and, when mesmerism is resorted to for any disagreeable symptoms that may arise, it will usually be found that it beeomes daily easier, till the mere regard of the mesmeriser is sufficient without moving a finger. The following are instanees of the irresistible power we wield over the system when it has been onee subdued. Being desirous to show a gentleman one day the invasion and progress of mesmerie sleep, I ordered one of the eonvaleseent patients to be brought to us. He entered the room doubled up and pressing his hands upon his belly, eomplaining of severe colie, and, on being desired to sit in a chair, he begged to be exeused, as he could not bear the sitting posture. Having persuaded him to sit down, he was entranced in two or three minutes;

and, being soon after demesmerised, he awoke quite well and free from pain.

"On going to the hospital another day, I was informed that a patient who had been operated upon eight days ago had that morning been attacked with lock-jaw. I found him suffering also from general rigidity of the body, with severe convulsions occurring every few seconds, and his body was bent backwards into an arch. He was ordered to be mesmerised, and in ten minutes I pared off the unhealthy parts of the wound, and steeped the entire surface in nitric acid with the hope of extinguishing all local irritation. To all this he was quite insensible, and the jaw became relaxed; but the convulsions and rigidity were only moderated. Next day, the spasms had increased and chloroform was given to him, but only with the effect of making him delirious, and he died in the evening.

"The first dressing of extensive wounds is sometimes as painful as the original operation, and it is superfluous to say that we can generally, with little trouble, save the patient all the pain and irritation arising from this process.

"It has been said that *the curative powers of mesmerism will occasionally save the surgeon the painful necessity of performing dangerous operations upon his patients,* of which accept the following illustrations. When going round the lunatic asylum with Dr. Strong one day, I saw one of the patients with his hand in a *shocking state of disease;* it was thrice the natural size, undermined with ulcers all over, and the fingers were contracted and as immoveable as the claws of a dead bird: the disease was of a year's standing. It appeared to me that amputation would be necessary, and, Dr. Strong agreeing, the man was sent to my hospital to be entranced and operated upon. Dr. Webb also saw him, and was of the same opinion. But, luckily for the man, he was not easily subdued, and after a few days I remarked such *an improvement in his general appearance,* that I resolved to attempt to save his hand with the help of mesmerism. The *sinuses* were laid upon, and he was mesmerised both locally and generally for an hour daily. The hand rapidly improved, and at the end of six weeks he was sent back to Dr. Strong's hospital with his hand of its natural size, possessing some power of moving the fingers, and perfectly *sane.* He was immediately discharged as cured by Dr. Strong.

"On the 3rd of August, a Brahmin came to the hospital with a *strangulated rupture,* attended with the usual pain, constipation, and vomiting: the gut had been down for twenty-four hours. I exhausted myself in vain endeavours to make

it return, and then, desiring him to be entranced, if possible, I left the hospital, bidding them send for me if they succeeded. Hearing nothing more of him that day, I went next day to the hospital, fearing to be obliged to operate upon him, but was relieved by being told that he had been *entranced within an hour, that the bowel then went up of itself without awaking him,* and that, having slept for an hour afterwards, he then got up, relieved himself, and went home quite well.

"This is the *third case of the kind* that has occurred, and is readily explained by the complete relaxation of the abdominal museles in the trance, by which the cavity of the abdomen is restored to its natural dimensions, and room made for the protruded bowel to return.

"It must be evident to every one whose mind is not *cast in the most contracted mould or petrified by routine,* that so powerful and benignant an agent in the treatment of surgical diseases must be equally efficacious in curing or relieving many diseases within the province of the physician, unless we suppose mankind to have a distinct surgical and medical constitution. The power of modifying with safety the human system, and of introducing new movements into it opposed to the continuance of diseased action, is the essential requisite in every remedy; and where shall we find an agent capable of modifying innocuously the nervous system (the main-spring of life) to the same extent as is done by mesmerism? If asked,—'what single power do you covet most for the cure of disease?' I should reply,—'enable me to extinguish pain and to put people to sleep as long as is desirable, without any of the subsequent bad effects of narcotic drugs, and *I will engage to cure a great variety of complaints by this agency alone.*'

"It must be evident, that, if the restorative powers of life are not exhausted, they will act with vigour in the absence of all pain and irritation, and that the diseased influence under such a state of things would be often thrown off by the unaided conservative efforts of nature. *Wonderful to say, this greatly desiderated and almost unhoped for curative agent, not only exists in nature, but is an essential element of the human constitution (varying in different persons, of course, like all other bodily and mental gifts,) and most persons possess the power of curing others, or of being themselves cured occasionally by an inherent sanative influence propagable between different individuals; for health is transmissible as well as disease,* it appears. So remarkable is the susceptibility of the natives of this country to the mesmeric influence, that I could with considerable confidence undertake to bring ninety

out of a hundred patients in any hospital in Calcutta under our control, in the course of 15 or 20 days, and a new source of health and comfort might thus be afforded to the inmates of our general hospitals. Hereupon certain persons will raise a cry that—'He wishes to throw the accumulated experience of ages, as well as physic, to the dogs, and to rely upon mesmerism exclusively as the *Universal Medicine*.' Yet these *reckless misrepresenters* well know that *they* are the advocates of an exclusive system of medicine, and pretenders to final knowledge, while my sole object has been to *unite* and *not to dissociate* mesmerism from medicine, and that my constant aim has been to add this new healing knowledge to what we already possess, being painfully oppressed with a sense of the *miserable impotency of our present resources in combating the host of evils that human flesh is heir to.*

"The following are a few examples of the unaided power of mesmerism in subduing or relieving diseases which often baffle the skill of the most experienced physician.

"Sreenath Sen, aged 30, looks 50; came to the hospital crawling along with the help of a pole: his feet were permanently turned out at right angles, and could not be moved inwards: all his joints were stiff and ached, and he looked more like a decrepid ourang outang than a man. He had suffered from rheumatism for the last six years, and for two years had been in his present state. After fifteen days' mesmerising, he began to improve, and at the end of two months his feet had resumed their natural position and freedom of motion; all his other aches had disappeared and he left the hospital walking freely and alertly.

"Lunkoo, aged 35, has had the shaking palsy for a year, being the sequel of a severe fever. He cannot stand without support on both sides; his body shakes continually; the hands are half closed and cannot be shut or opened farther; he can only raise his hands half way to his head, and his speech is nearly inarticulate. He can now, at the end of two months, walk after a fashion with the help of a stick, shut and open his hands forcibly, and raise his arms to the natural extent above his head; he speaks much better and the shaking of his body is much diminished.

"I do not expect to cure this man, but I am confident physic would have done him no good. Palsy arising from old age or organic disease is of course as incurable by mesmerism as by every thing else, but there seems to be some excitability left in this man's nervous system, and it may be still farther roused by the mesmeric stimulus.

"Sheik Buksh, aged 40, complaining of pain in the head

(neuralgia or tic douloureux) for two months, was dismissed cured after twenty days mesmerising.

"Chucker Singh, afflicted with pain and stiffness in his back for ten months, was discharged cured after a month.

"Allup Khan, aged 26, with a stiff and painful leg *(sciatica)* for eight months and also cured in a month.

"But much of our labour in medical cases is thrown away from the patients not being in the hospital, as they come and leave off when they please. It is in large General Hospitals, where the patients are under our command, that the extensive utility of mesmerism in the treatment of numerous medical diseases may be satisfactorily demonstrated on a great scale.

"Having expressed my desire to you, gentlemen, to avail myself of Dr. Strong's liberal offer to try the effect of mesmerism upon the inmates of the Insane Hospital here, you were kind enough to sanction a monthly expenditure of 20 Rs. for this purpose, which has been spent in paying ten of the guards 2 Rs. a month each to act as mesmerisers. Being familiar with the soothing and strengthening effects of mesmerism upon the debilitated and irritable nervous systems of the sane, and believing that insanity, in general, originates in debility or functional derangement of the brain, I expected to find mesmerism of service in the treatment of madness, like every thing else that restores tone and regularity to the system. But functional derangement of the brain, if long neglected, becomes as inveterate as other chronic diseases of function, and success under any treatment will mainly depend upon early attention being paid to the case. The Asylum here only contains the most unfavourable and disheartening subjects to work upon; the inmates being generally poor friendless wretches, picked up by the Police in highways, or confined by order of the magistrate for offences committed in paroxysms of madness. We have seldom any previous history of the individual to enable us to guess whether the disease is one of organic lesion or functional derangement only of the brain, and possibly the persons may never have been sane in their lives; under these circumstances, any success whatever from a new mode of treatment would surely be very satisfactory and encouraging. By habitually expecting little, and being thankful for the smallest favor from nature, I have generally had my expectations more than realized.

"The patients were taken in the order of their names in the Register, and none were rejected, except for old age or self-evident idiotcy: care being also taken that the persons were *then perfectly mad*, lest a lucid interval might be the commencement of a permanent cure. During the last

six months, thirty-seven persons have been mesmerised, and the results are:—

8 cured.
1 cured and relapsed.
18 no change.
1 died.
9 under treatment—5 much improved.

37

"As I mentioned, *we found the insane as readily affected as the sane;* many of the patients being thrown into the trance, although it was not desired to do so, it not being thought *necessary*. One morning I found a new man being mesmerised, without orders; the native doctor said that he had come to the hospital that morning, and, as his throat was cut, he had desired him to be entranced, if possible, to have it sewn up. On examining the man I found him intensely entranced (after half an hour), and fit to bear any operation, but, I not having the neeessary instruments at hand, it was put off. Next day, he was again found entranced, and, the edges of the wound having become callous, they were pared raw with a knife, and the wound was then brought together with stitches and plaster. He was in no way disturbed by this, and on waking was surprised to find himself no longer breathing through the hole in his neck. Several of the men dated their recovery from a certain day, saying that after awaking on such a day they had felt their '*heads lightened,*' or their '*hearts opened,*' and their conduct and appearance agreed with this statement. The rapid change effected in one man, named Beekoram, was very striking. When brought before us, he was the very picture of a moping madman, his mind and body being equally listless and apathetic; his countenance was void of expression, and no rational answers to questions could be got from him. This was one of the men who passed into the trance, and at the end of ten days he was absolutely *a new being, and had become as active and intelligent as he had formerly been torpid and stupid.*

"Dr. Strong one day asked me in conversation if there was any reason to suppose that the natives of this country knew mesmerism before we introduced it among them. I replied that it could not be reasonably doubted, and that their medical conjurers are often genuine mesmerisers, as I have described in my *Mesmerism in India.* This has been confirmed from different quarters, and especially by Dr. Davidson, late resident at Jeypore. This gentleman, visiting our hospital and seeing the mesmerisers stroking and

breathing upon the patients, said, 'I now understand what the '*jar-phoonk*' of Upper India means; it is nothing but mesmerism.' Being requested to explain himself, he continued:—'Many of my people, after I had tried in vain to cure them of different severe complaints, used to ask leave for several weeks to be treated by the *Jadoo-wallah*, or conjurer; and, to my great surprise, they often returned quite well, and, in reply to my enquiries, they always said that they had undergone a process called '*jar-phoonk*.' I could never understand what this was, but I now see it before me; it is the combination of stroking and breathing; *jarna*, being to *stroke*, and '*phoonka*,' to *breathe*; which very correctly describes the mesmeric process.'

"This conversation with Dr. Strong took place in the presence of the mesmerisers and patients; and, turning to the former, I asked if any of them knew what the *jar-phoonk* was in Upper India, but they were chiefly Bengalees, and had not heard of it. Beekoram, who had been listening, said, '*Jar-phoonk?* Oh yes, I know it,—I am an up-countryman, and will tell you all about it; this is the way the Jadoo-wallahs do;' and he went through the process with great precision, pretty much as I have described it as practised in Bengal. *This man, and three other recovered patients, were taught to mesmerise*, and in a few trials subdued their subjects as well as could be desired, and, as a moral discipline, they were required to report upon the conduct of their patients during the day, which they did very satisfactorily every morning. These men, being criminals, have not been discharged, and may be conversed with in the hospital now.

"Dr. Kean, of Berhampore, writes to me that he has had much more striking success in his Lunatic Asylum, probably owing to more regular superintendence, which is indispensable; for if not done with a *will*, it need not be done at all.

"Dr. Kean says:—'Taking a hasty glance over the years 1847 and 1848, I see that about 74 patients were mesmerised, and that of these, 64 were discharged cured to all appearance, and I think it has been successful in every case of epilepsy.'

"It thus appears that mesmerism is likely to be as serviceable in the treatment of insanity as it is in general medicine and the practice of surgery, and I should like extremely to prosecute the subject to the extent it deserves, both for its physical and metaphysical interest; for the physical effects of mesmerism comprise only one-half of the subject, and we must be familiar with both the bodily and mental phenomena

before we can attempt to reason with any success upon the nature and laws which govern this wonderful vital agent.

"It would fill a book if I now related all the marvellous bodily and mental phenomena we have witnessed; but, as those reports are meant to be purely utilitarian, this will be better done at another time and place.

"If it is true,—'That the proper study of mankind is man,' there can be no branch of human knowledge more deserving the attention of all practical and reflecting minds than mesmerism; for it contains an inexhaustible fund of usefulness and instructive speculation. This double and permanent interest which mesmerism has for the human race, must soon attract the notice of the workers and thinkers in England; and Calcutta will receive due honor for having been the first city in the British dominions to support an institution for the cultivation of this important branch of human knowledge. But as long as the exclusion of mesmerism from the public Hospitals of Calcutta renders a separate establishment necessary, I should wish to tax the liberality of the public as lightly as possible. If the native community of Calcutta values the Mesmeric Hospital, and thinks the subject is of national importance, it is necessary for it to make some slight exertions to preserve a useful establishment till the progress of time and public opinion compel the Government Hospital to attend to the wants and wishes of the people. I do not grudge my gratuitous labours; provided the public show that some value is attached to them, and surely there ought to be no difficulty in raising a monthly income of Rs. 350 among the thousands of rich natives here, many of whom could afford the whole sum without feeling it.

"A few gentlemen, paying largely and liberally, chiefly support the Hospital at present; but I hope to be able to relieve them soon by the native community coming forward more generally to share the expense. I should like to see the Hospital supported by numerous small subscriptions, say of Rs. 3 each, and thus be enabled to do much good without the slightest inconvenience to any one.

"Fifty-four persons, who were miserable burdens to themselves and others, have been restored to comfort and usefulness during the last year; many of them Brahmins and persons in good circumstances who would not have gone to any other Hospital; and I put it to the native society to say whether the support of such an institution is not as good a deed as any recommended in the Shasters.

"James Esdaile, M.D.,
"*Marine Surgeon.*"

"*A Visit to the Mesmeric Hospital.*

"Nihil a me alienum puto, &c.

"TO THE EDITOR OF THE CALCUTTA STAR.

"Dear Sir,—Although a strong believer in the reality and utility of mesmerism without having seen it in any way made use of, I went the other day to the native hospital and through the kind attention of Dr. Esdaile saw sufficient to convert the most seeptical, always supposing him to be open to conviction as a man of honour and a gentleman. I congratulated myself on the occasion that I had taken the trouble to make myself acquainted with the subject before proceeding to doubt its existence or declare it to be *humbug*, and had the satisfaction to find that what I believed in theory was completely borne out in practice.

"After my inspecting several patients who had been operated on for painful scrotal tumors of various kinds, Dr. Esdaile kindly proceeded to mesmerise a man of a strong and healthy appearance, a convalescent who had had a tumor weighing some 60 pounds removed from him, and was very sensitive to the mesmeric influence. Dr. Esdaile made him sit down on a chair, and, placing himself opposite, willed that he should go to sleep; and in four or five minutes, *in spite of the man's obvious efforts to keep himself awake,* he was in a state of profound coma. He answered several questions put to him by Dr. Esdaile, but in the curt and indisposed style to answer of a man who felt compelled to sleep, and the curious phase was, that the man who in his waking state was most obsequious in his salaams gave all his responses in the shortest manner and used no terms of courtesy or even common civility. On being desired to get up and walk, he did so with great reluctance, and proceeded in the same manner as a benighted traveller, with great caution, until he was brought up by the wall; he then just felt it with his hands, let them drop, and continued in a passive state and would have remained so until relieved from his mesmeric trance by his mesmeriser, or by time; on being desired to return, he did so in the same manner. He was shewn to be highly cataleptic; on his arm being thrown up in the air, it remained so, and any part of his body retained its position, although some positions were painful and inconvenient; upon *one* side of the body being mesmerised it *was beautiful to see the separation of the nervous system so plainly and unconsciously developed by this poor ignorant coolie of Bengal.* On pricking his right arm, leg, hand, right side of the head or trunk, no motion ensued; but prick him one *eighth of an inch on the left side of the middle of the*

spine, no matter where, and the patient winced instantly. A line could not have been drawn more correctly, or even so much so by the most experienced demonstrator of anatomy in the world,—the division that intervened between the highly sensitive and totally deadened part of the system being perfectly imperceptible; on being asked whether he was asleep, his answer was, '*Yes.*'

"How do you know whether you are asleep?

"Because my eyes are shut.

"How then is it that you hear?

"With my ears.

"But being asleep, how can you hear?

"Because my *ears are awake.*

"Some salt was put in this man's mouth, and upon Dr. Esdaile's desiring him to swallow he did so, and upon being asked whether he tasted anything he said, 'No.'

"He was then demesmerised, and upon being questioned said, 'there is salt in my mouth, sahib,' went to the window and spat out what remained; his courteous and kotowing manner in his natural state formed a remarkable contrast to the curt and *brusque* answers made by him during the coma.*

"On moving into another apartment, we selected, at random, a patient who had been operated upon for hypertrophied scrotum. He seated himself on a bed opposite to the Doctor, who was separated from him by a space of three yards or so; then, taking a sheet of paper, the latter pretended to sketch the diseased part so as to prevent the man from imagining that he was to be mesmerised. In two minutes he was fast asleep: the sloughing sore was sponged with *concentrated nitric acid.* I held the man's pulse during the application, the torment of which to a man awake *would have made him frantic,* (as we shall have occasion to show,) but it was not accelerated *a single beat, not a muscle moved* in the man's body, a calm and *placid expression was on his countenance and remained on it.* On the patient awaking he was asked whether he felt any pain; he answered no; nor heat? no; had not the slightest idea that anything had been done to him.

"After this we went into another room where was a man suffering horrible torments from sloughing of the scrotum; he rolled over on the bed and continually groaned and cried. A native mesmeriser had been for some time trying to throw him into a trance but without success; the pain being so acute as to baffle all his efforts. Dr. Esdaile then tried for some time without success; at last he succeeded in throwing

* For the same in a black slave at Damascus, see No. IX. p. 65.—*Zoist.*

him into a sleep, whereby he was rendered perfectly insensible to pricking, but yet he involuntarily threw his arms about in the same manner as when awake, but *uttered no sound that would lead any one to believe him in pain.* The pangs were, however, too acute, and succeeded in awaking him in spite of all attempts to prevent such an occurrence.

"The nitric acid was eventually applied in his waking state, and I shall not, in a hurry, forget the scene; the poor wretch rolled and screamed with the pain, and was left an hour afterwards in the same state of torment. Nothing could have better demonstrated the value of the practice of mesmerism as an anæsthetic than this *failure* to produce coma, for it showed the amount of pain that could be and has been saved by its means.

"One of the most wonderful effects produced by mesmerism was visible in the case of an old man of about 50 (allowing always for the premature appearance of age in the native). He was admitted into the hospital about two months ago with *palsy of long standing; he had lost all power of speech, his limbs were never quiet, he could not shut his hands or raise his arm above the elbow, nor could he walk*—in the short space of *two* months he could *speak well* and intelligibly, could *shut and open his hands freely*, could *lift his arm* up above his head with ease, and managed to *walk with a stick quite well* enough to serve his purposes.

"No medicinal or surgical aid could have been of use in a parallel case: Cases of rheumatism of long standing have yielded to mesmeric treatment, when all other has been of no avail. In conclusion, I have only this to say on the subject, and that is—if mesmerism be humbug then, 'Vive la Bagatelle.'

"Yours,

"Le Médecin malgré lui."

"My dear Dr. Elliotson,—The bistoury and the pamphlets arrived safely, for which accept my best thanks. The books I distributed to advantage, and I have no doubt they will do their work effectually in various quarters. Weiss has not made the knife powerful enough in the handle, or according to the drawing; but it is an improvement on his former tool; and I used it the other day in stealing a *ninety-pounder* from its owner *without his knowledge.* The colis was dissected out, and the disgusting mass lying on the floor in *three* minutes: the man had *no difficulty in recovering from the shock, and is doing perfectly well.*

"A curious case happened the other day. A young

Hindoo, a rich man, and who had received an English education, begged me to operate upon him without the knowledge of his friends, from whom he had concealed his complaint. If eating beef and drinking brandy are genuine tests of Christianity, 'young Bengal' is a most zealous and devoted convert; the importation of brandy having been doubled in amount of late years in consequence of his pious libations. My patient confessed to drinking two bottles of brandy in the twenty-four hours, and this was doubtless not the limit of his capacity for alcohol.

"He was desired to go to the hospital daily to be mesmerised for one hour, and on the first day he was effectually subdued. On the third day, I operated upon him, and he lay like a dead fish, with his eyes open and turned up, for an hour and a half, and then awoke *gloriously drunk*, declaring that 'he cared for no man,' &c., with true drunken independence. He had intrusted his secret only to one 'antient, trusty, drouthy crony,' who accompanied him, and from whom I learned that he drank six glasses of raw brandy before coming to the hospital at 11 o'clock. The loss of blood, about 2 lbs., also aided the brandy, no doubt, in disturbing the equilibrium of his brain; but he fell asleep at two o'clock, slept till five o'clock, and then awoke in the full possession of his senses, without any pain, and unconscious of the operation and his subsequent delirium.

"Now if he had been kept under the mesmeric influence till five o'clock, giving him the necessary time to exhale the alcohol from his blood, would he not have awoke in all likelihood in the possession of his senses? The antimesmeric philosophers will get rid of all such speculations by declaring it to have been a *brandy operation* from first to last; and I hope Professor Millar will try to repeat it in the Edinburgh Infirmary—the dose is six glasses of 'Castellan Brandy' before 11 o'clock.*

"By this mail, I have the pleasure to send you ten copies of my last Report, to be sent to the newspapers and journals. I have again twitted the medical journals with their cowardice, and you might try whether any of them dare yet let the truth appear in their pages. If they *still* continue the *burking* system, it will be heaping coals of fire upon their heads for their final judgment by the public. It is nearly impossible to get John Bull to think for himself, but he hates a *coward*, and may be worked on this tack. I run a risk of turning tyrant myself, for I now meet with no opposition.

"Believe me, very truly yours,

"4th October, 1849. "James Esdaile.

* See No. XXV., p. 103.—*Zoist.*

"P.S. I now rejoice under the name of '*Marine Surgeon,*' having lately been promoted to the post amidst a chorus of, 'Served him right!' from my allies the newspapers. The last Report has been printed in them all."

On the conduct of the British Medical Journalists, and nearly the whole of the Medical Profession, in reference to the greatest of medical blessings: with some hints to the Public on Mesmerisers. By Dr. Elliotson.

"If disgrace be our destiny, you, Sir, will have the satisfaction to reflect upon a *manly* protest against foolery or fraud—*foolery*, if these puerile doings be indeed adjudged as worthy—*fraud*, if their performers concur in the contempt with which they are viewed by the most eminent and wisest members of the Royal College of Physicians."—*Dedication to Dr. Francis Hawkins* by Dr. Robert Hall† of a book entitled, "A few suggestions on Consumption,"* 1849.

The preceding article from India suggests very serious reflections.

The editors of the medical journals preserve a *dead silence* upon all the mighty mesmeric facts, medical and surgical, which occur and are reported in *The Zoist:* the mightiest facts, I do not hesitate to declare, which medicine or surgery ever furnished; and in numbers which, as the *seven* volumes of *The Zoist* demonstrate, ought to astonish. But their hearts are hardened; and they care not for the welfare of their fellow-creatures; madly believing that they will long be able, even while their own time lasts, to conceal from the medical profession what they well know to be truths, and truths surpassing all other natural truths in both philosophical and practical importance,—truths concerned with life, nay, with sentient, moral and intellectual nature, with the cure of disease, even the most afflicting, and with the alleviation, removal, and prevention of pain.

I feel shame that I belong to the medical profession, I feel shame that I am a human being, when, forgetting for a moment those noble and beautiful unworldly characters who are the salt of the earth, and before whom I count myself as nothing, I behold human nature capable of such inhumanity, such absence of moral principle, and such weak short-sightedness; I involuntarily think of the rabid Jews of

* See *Zoist*, Nos. XXIII. and XXIV.

† The writer is, we believe, an aspirant for practice in Norwich. When Miss Martineau's case was published, he sent a letter to the Norwich paper, saying that more tumors in the abdomen have been created than removed by mesmerism. As Dr. Hawkins announced to the College of Physicians that mesmerists are lewd quacks and impostors, these two gentlemen are calculated to admire each other.

old, who spurned what fell from the lips of him whose aim was to be the Saviour of mankind, and cried out, not knowing what they did, "Not this man, but Barabbas."

The announcement of the blessed power of ether to prevent the agony of surgical operations was not scowled upon nor spoken disparagingly of by us: though our adversaries, editors of medical journals and professors indulged in gross exultation at mesmerism having met with a heavy blow and had one of its limbs cut away and being superseded:* on the contrary, we rejoiced and immediately assisted in spreading the news.† We did not act the unworthy, the miserable part, acted by the opponents of mesmerism when the anæsthetic, and *invariably safe*, power of mesmerism was proclaimed in the Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society of London.‡

Ether gave way to chloroform, and the enthusiasm for preventing surgical pain became general. Patients were killed continually with the poisonous drugs, but this was ascribed to anything but the drug—to its impurity, to want of air, and nobody knows what. The destruction of life by chloroform has gone on increasing, but still our *safe* method without drugs or anything injurious is despised; nay, more than safe, most beneficial, so as sometimes to cause an operation to be dispensed with, but not thought worthy of trial by these philosophers. It is something, however, to see them ashamed of saying any longer that pain is not worth a thought on the part of a surgeon, is a useful thing, a downright blessing to the patient, and that operations cannot be performed without pain; and to see Sir Benjamin Brodie attend painless operations after saying what while his name is remembered will be remembered too.§

There are recorded in the seven volumes of *The Zoist*, and my pamphlet, AT LEAST TWO HUNDRED AND FIFTY PAINLESS SURGICAL OPERATIONS; many of the severest kind.

Nearly one hundred were the removal of tumors, varying from a few pounds to above a hundred.

Nineteen were amputations.

There was lithotomy, extirpation of the eye-ball with the subsequent application of strong nitric acid.

* *Medical Gazette*, April 12, 1845; *Lancet*, January, 1847, p. 16; *North British Review*, May, 1847; *Zoist*, Nos. XXII. and XXV.

† See *Zoist*, Nos. XVI., p. 576. For a contrast of the conduct of the medical profession on these two occasions, see *Zoist*, No. XVII., p. 44.

‡ The wild conduct of the Society on that occasion is detailed in my *Numerous Cases of Surgical Operations without Pain in the Mesmeric State*, and my account cannot be equalled in interest by any medical adventures or history.

§ See my pamphlet on *Painless Operations*, p. 36, and *Zoist*, No. XVI., p. 596.

Removals of the breast.

Cuttings out of nails: besides painless applications of the strongest eausties.

And the medical profession are no more cognizant of these stupendous and all important facts than the horses in Athens are of the exquisite figures on the pediment of the Parthenon. They can now give no eonseientious reason for their eonduct, although originally they deelared the patients were impostors, shamming the absenee of all signs of pain and all signs of effort to repress the expression of pain, and deelared pain was too good a thing to be dispensed with. They have eompelled themselves to silence in these partieulars, beeause they are indefatigable in using ehloroform.* The figure the present age must cut in the sight of posterity will be rendered still more hideous by the reflection, that, whereas mesmerism is perfeetly safe and eonducive to recovery, chloroform is destroying life more and more.

How many persons have been destroyed, we have no means of knowing: but I have met with the following aeeounts.

Killed with Ether or Chloroform, given previously to surgical operations: not to speak of deaths from their administration for other purposes.

With Ether.—A man with stone. Mr. Nunn, of Colehester. *Medical Gazette,* Mareh 5, 1847.

Woman with tumor of the thigh. Mr. Robbs, of Grantham. *Ditto,* April 2, 1847.

Boy—amputation of thigh. Mr. Eastment, Wineanton, Somerset. *Ditto,* April 9, 1847.

Woman—amputation of thigh. Paris. *Medical Times,* Feb. 27, 1847.

Two women, in the wards of M. Jobert: one for amputation of thigh. Paris. *Ditto,* March 20, 1847.

* "The discovery and application of ether and chloroform as anæsthetic agents," says Mr. Wakley, in his *Lancet* for April 8, 1848, *five years after* the first appearance of *The Zoist*—with its mass of painless operations, and the publication of the celebrated painless case of amputation in Nottinghamshire, "will probably distinguish the present era in the future history of mankind!" Great indeed will be the distinction of the mesmerists, who were five years in advance of the profession, and endeavoured wisely to charm the deaf adder! "The avidity with which these agents have been received, seems to imply that a need of them must have been long felt!" "Yet their reception has not been more ready than might have *à priori* been supposed, considering how much they may affect not only our practice but our opinions!" This is charming. And mesmerism, which showed its power of affecting our practice and our opinions far more strongly than mere narcotic drugs, years before these were seized upon, can be hidden and repressed!

With Ether.—Woman—cancer of breast. Auxerre. *Medical Gazette,* March 10, 1848.

Lady—extraction of tooth. Berlin. Correspondent of *Times,* letter dated Nov. 13, 1849.

"A young lady was killed here yesterday by a dentist administering ether in order to draw a tooth without pain. Every effort to restore animation failed; the punishment for the use of such dangerous means by an unqualified person is very severe."

With Chloroform.—Girl—removal of toe-nail. Newcastle. *Lancet,* Feb. 8, 1848.

Woman—extraction of tooth. Cincinnati. *Ditto,* April 15, ditto.

Ditto—opening a tumor. Boulogne. *Ditto,* June 10, ditto.

Man—extraction of tooth. London. *Ditto,* July 8, ditto.

Woman—amputation of finger. India. *Ditto,* July 15, ditto.

Ditto—extraction of teeth. Birkenhead. *Ditto,* ditto.

Man—amputation. Paris. *Ditto,* July 29, ditto.

Ditto—removal of toe-nail. Govan. *Ditto,* Jan. 6, 1849.

Ditto—amputation of toe. Westminster. *Ditto,* Feb. 17, ditto.

Ditto—ditto finger. Lyons. *Ditto,* Feb. 24, ditto.

Girl—removal of eye. India. *Zoist,* April, ditto.*

Man—the surgeon, inhaling it first himself, for trial, perished. Glasgow. *Med. Gaz.,* Sept. 14, ditto.

Woman—extraction of tooth. Langres. *Ditto,* ditto, ditto.

Boy—amputation of leg. Spain. *Lancet,* Oct. 13, ditto.

Man—removal of scrotal tumor. India. *Zoist,* Oct. ditto.†

Ditto—removal of toe-nail. London. *Lancet,* Nov. 3, ditto.‡

* Contrast this death by Mr. O'Shaughnessy, a despiser of mesmerism, with the successful case under mesmerism by Dr. Martin, *Zoist,* July, 1849.

† Contrast this with all the successful cases under mesmerism by Dr. Esdaile. Neither of these two Indian deaths by chloroform is mentioned in the London medical journals.

‡ To shew how chloroform kills, I will extract the account in the words of Mr. Solly, the unlucky obstinate operator:—"On Wednesday, October 10, at a quarter to two p.m., he began to inhale the chloroform, with one drachm in the inhaler. It had no visible effect for about two minutes; it then excited him, and the in-

Lady—extraction of tooth. Paris. *Medical Gazette,* Nov. 30, ditto.

"Madame Labrunc, 33 years of age, in good health, applied to M. de Confevron with the request that he would administer chloroform to her previously to the extraction of a tooth, which the dentist stated would be effected with some difficulty.

"Having determined to produce only the slightest degree of insensibility, about fifteen grains (one gramme) of chloroform were poured upon a fold of lint the size of a filbert, enclosed in a handkerchief. This was held at a distance from the nostrils by the patient herself.

"Its effects were manifested in eight seconds, and

strument was removed from his mouth, and about ten drops more were added. He then almost immediately became insensible, the chloroform was taken away from his mouth, and the nail removed. He continued insensible; and his face becoming dark, the pulse small, quick, but regular, respiration laborious, his neck-kerchief was removed, and the chest exposed to fresh air from a window close to the bed; cold water was dashed on his face, the chest rubbed, and ammonia applied to the nose. After struggling for about a minute, he became still, the skin cold, pulse scarcely perceptible, and soon ceased to be felt at the wrist; respiration became slow and at intervals, but continued a few seconds after the cessation of the pulse. Immediately on the appearance of these symptoms artificial respiration was commenced, by depressing the ribs with the hands, and then allowing them to rise again, until the proper apparatus was brought, when respiration was kept up by means of the trachea-tube and bellows, and oxygen gas was introduced into the lungs by the same means. Galvanism was also applied through the heart and diaphragm; but all signs of life ceased in about six or seven minutes after the commencement of inhalation. These means were persisted in until a quarter-past three, but to no purpose. On removing the inhaler, the sponge, which only contains one drachm, fell on to the floor, and the chloroform splashed about, thus showing that considerable part of the chloroform remained unused, so that he could not have inhaled more than a drachm."

I must recall to the memory of my readers Mr. Solly's conduct in reference to mesmerism, recorded in the present volume.* He refused to remove a woman's breast under mesmerism, because the effect of mesmerism was entirely mental! and therefore bad!! The poor woman suffered dreadfully from the operation and the chloroform, and soon she required another operation, and preferred the pain of it to the misery from the chloroform: and now her breast is bad again. Whether after thus destroying a man's life with chloroform, Mr. Solly will still consider the innocent and salutary anæsthesia of mesmerism bad, I know not. Let him reflect upon Dr. Esdaile's successful and painless operations upon toe-nails belonging to feet still used by their possessors.

"Sona, a Hindoo woman, aged 25. Both nails of the great toes are decayed to the roots; their place being filled by fungoid ulcers, the effects of syphilis and mercury.

"She was mesmerised at 12 o'clock, and at half-past one I dissected out the entire root of one nail, without awaking her. The left arm and hand trembled only, and this I subdued by placing her hand between mine for some minutes; and I left her sleeping.

"August 5th. Repeated the operation to-day with precisely the same effects. On neither occasion did she feel any increase of pain on waking."—No. XIII., p. 40.

"Goluck Scit, a prisoner, has got a hydrocele on each side. A young Hindoo subdued him to-day in ten minutes, on the first trial. When about to ope-

* No. XXV., p. 38.

the reporter remarked constant winking of the eyelids. The patient repulsed the dentist's hand, making signs that the effect was not complete. She then made four or five fuller inspirations. At that instant, M. de Confevron removed the handkerchief, and only took his eyes off her for the instant occupied by placing it on the nearest piece of furniture; but in this brief interval he found the patient's face turned pale, the lips discoloured, her features altered, the eyes turned upwards, the pupils horribly dilated, the jaw closed, the head drawn backwards, the pulse could not be felt, the limbs were all relaxed, and a few inspirations, at long intervals, were the only remaining indications of life.

"Every means of restoration were employed for two hours: stimulation of the nostrils by ammonia; frictions of the surface; actual cauterization of the præcordial region; artificial respiration, and galvanism,—all were had recourse to, but without success: the patient was too surely dead."

Poor Welsh girl—removal of eye-ball. Shrewsbury. Quoted by *Daily News* from the *Hereford Journal*, Dec., 1849.

"Mr. W. J. Clement, the surgeon under whose care she was, administered about one-third of the quantity which he has given other patients. It had, however, such an effect upon her that she was seized with apoplexy, and, speaking in Welsh at the time, expired instantaneously, as if she had swallowed prussic acid."

I have no doubt that a more extensive search would discover more such medical deaths; and in fact other instances have occurred which have been hushed up. They are easily hushed up, and an inquest avoided, if death does not occur immediately. For inhaled ether and chloroform, like all other poisons, may kill instantly or not for some time; and may indeed cause no ill effect or any effect immediately. Because the death of a Right Hon. M.P., mentioned in No. XXV.,

rate, I saw that he possessed a *consecrated nail*, on one of his little fingers; and knowing the value attached to this, I resolved to get possession of it, if possible, as a *moral* test of his being insensible, for he would as soon have cut a cow's throat and eaten a beef-steak as allowed me to cut off his nail, while in possession of his senses. It is a common practice with the Hindoos to vow their hair, beards, or nails to Shiva, the Destroyer, in the hope of averting his anger; and this man had consecrated his little finger-nail to Shiva Forakissore,—Forakissore, in this district, being a famous shrine of the god. *I transferred the sacred excrescence to my pocket, without any remonstrance being made*, and then performed the less formidable operation of withdrawing the water, and throwing in the injection, of which he knew nothing on awaking two hours after. His only distress was the loss of his nail, and *he spent hours in hunting for it*, supposing that it had been broken off by accident."—No. XV., p. 315.

p. 37, did not take place for some days,—as in Mr. Travers's case of death from ether, mentioned in No. XXV., p. 37, but where no secrecy was observed,—he never rallying after the administration of chloroform, though the surgical operation was a trifle, the death was said to have arisen from typhus fever or from absorption of pus; though these were mere inventions. Women, after passing through parturition well without pain, have gradually sunk at the end of a few days, or have begun to feel the effects of the inhalation after a certain number of hours and fallen into convulsions and apoplexy and died; the administration of chloroform having been kept a secret to as great an extent as possible. I could relate many facts of this kind.

Where females are killed by chloroform in childbirth, there is no inquest, because the death is ascribed to the childbirth; just as in most cases where it is caused by the clumsiness or impatience of the man-midwife.

In No. XXV., p. 38, I mentioned ill effects from chloroform of longer or shorter duration, not amounting to death: and I hear of more such results every day. I know that Dr. Webster really made the following statement, which I extract from the *Literary Gazette* of the 24th of last November.

"*Insanity from Chloroform.*

"At a recent meeting of the Westminster Medical Society, Dr. John Webster related the histories of three cases of insanity after the use of chloroform, during labour, which had come under his cognizance. In the first case, the patient continued three days after her delivery in an incoherent, rambling condition, and then became perfectly maniacal, and so furious as to require coercion. She was removed some time after to a lunatic asylum, where she remained twelve months, and she has now recovered her reason. The second patient never recovered from the effects of the chloroform administered, and soon became completely insane, in which state she continued many months, but ultimately recovered. In the third instance, the cerebral disturbance never ceased entirely after the exhibition of the chloroform. She could not sleep at night for a long time; and often said she felt as if in the presence of a madman who was going to murder her. Three weeks subsequently, she seemed almost completely maniacal, exhibiting much mental excitement, laughing frequently, and expressed strong desire to sing, and other extraordinary feelings; conducted herself like an idiot, and lost her memory; in which state she continued five months, when she recovered. Instantaneous death and loss of reason are two of the consequences now ascertained to result, in some cases, from the immediate noxious influence of this potent agent."

It is ludicrous to read the attempts of the partizans of ether

and ehloroform, especially of those who gain money by going about administering them, or have fully eommitted themselves in the matter and have thus what an intelleetual man would regard as a trumpery kind of professional reputation, to explain these misehievous results without referenee to ehloroform—to aseribe them to want of air, impurity of the drug, &e. though all the marks of nareotie poisoning were observed before and after death.* The *Medical Gazette* is honest on this subject: for, after detailing the last ease whieh oeeurred at Paris, it says:—

"Facts of this kind have become so multiplied that it is no longer possible to attribute them to any other cause than chloroformization. Omitting all the cases of which we have not the exact details, and eonfining our attention to those already referred to, it is clearly impossible to arrive at any other conclusion. In all these, the symptoms which preceded death, eompared with the necroscopic results, prove the extinction of life to have been owing to a real asphyxia, the direct effect of the speeial deleterious influenee of chloroform on the brain.

"In the present instance the patient died as if struck by lightning, despite the small quantity of vapour inhaled, and the precautions observed. There was no warning, as in M. Gorrè's case, no

* As Mr. Wakley was seized in 1847 with a fit of more than his ordinary piety when mesmerism was superseded by ether and lost one of its limbs, and proposed a public national thanksgiving to the Almighty for putting it in our power to operate without pain (*Zoist*, No. XVII., p. 47), though he has not thanked God at all for enabling us to operate painlessly and safely under mesmerism, he will probably now propose a public national fast and humiliation on account of the havoc which inhalation has made among us, and advise those who have killed their patients to put on sackcloth and throw *ashes* on their heads.

He thus writes in that year:—"A distinguished physician* of one of the great metropolitan hospitals addresses us as follows:—

"'The greatest blessing vouchsafed, in these latter days, to those who live on earth, is, for the present, in the keeping of one class of men, and of that alone. The prevention of pain by the inhalation of ether vapour has been hitherto practised only by those whose business is with the healing art. As yet, this gift from heaven to all is held by us of the medical profession in sole and exclusive trust. It is time that we acknowledge the Giver. Let not this warrant of mercy pass from us to the world at large, without the stamp of worship and thanksgiving. It has been often said by the pharisee, that, as a class of men, physicians and surgeons are wanting in the sentiments of love and reverence to Him whose sentence is for life or death. Let us refute this idle and petulant slander now, while occasion serves, at once and for ever. Let the chaplain of every hospital in which these wonders have been witnessed, be invited by the Medical Officers of the establishment to offer up their humble and hearty thanks for the late mercies vouchsafed to the patients under their charge. Let every student in every class-room humble himself, with his teacher, in the presence of an agency which renews in suffering man the healing miracles of old. There should be public acts of thanksgiving throughout the land, for this signal favour to man present and to come. Let young and old be earnest for this privilege, with their clergy, and let physicians and surgeons be the first to bow the knee.'"

* Probably Dr. J. A. Wilson, whose virulence against mesmerism is recorded in No. XXIII., p. 231.

complaint of sense of suffocation; on the contrary, the patient, at the moment of dying, indicated that the anæsthesia was not complete, and this was shown by her still tightly holding the handkerchief when taken from her.

"M. Sedillot has pointed out that the supervention of muscular relaxation is the period at which the administration of the agent should cease; but the preceding case shows that this indication is fallacious. The pulse does not furnish a more certain indication, since, in M. Berrier's case, life and the pulse ceased simultaneously."*

But, though the editor's heart was so overjoyed that he announced ether with the words—"Mesmerism Superseded," he makes no reflection upon his former hastiness of joy.

I record these facts with real sorrow: because, in common with every mesmerist, I should have rejoiced to see inhalations always successful and innocent. That I speak the truth, is proved by the conduct of us all from the first announcement of ether and chloroform, and during all the indecent exultation and insults of our adversaries.†

* It is remarkable that the poor woman had been successfully etherized before for slight surgical operations.

† One of the bitterest revilers of mesmerism is Mr. Lawrence: (See *Zoist*, No. XXIII., p. 286,) and for no reason I am certain beyond unworthy feelings. The painless Nottinghamshire amputation made no impression upon him: the prevention of pain was then no object to him; and the poor man was an impostor. Ether and chloroform, now superseding mesmerism, made him value painless operations, and the subjects of them clearly were not impostors and suffered no pain. I heard the Prince Consort quietly ask him at a party what his proof of absence of pain in etherized patients was: "Oh!" said he, raising his shoulders and screwing his mouth, "they lie quite motionless and express no pain." The poor Nottinghamshire mesmerised man was not let off thus easily, as my Pamphlet records. Mr. Lawrence thus writes in the *Medical Gazette*, Jan. 22, 1847:—

"I had occasion last week to perform one of the most painful surgical operations; and I *gladly* embraced the opportunity of submitting to what will, I think, be deemed a complete test, the recently introduced practice of inhaling the vapour of sulphuric ether. The great interest excited throughout the medical profession, and in the public generally, on a matter of which the importance can hardly be overrated in reference to operative surgery, induces me to communicate to you the particulars without delay; the result having been perfectly satisfactory."

"To inquiries respecting what he had felt, the patient said that it was like drowning—a sense of water rushing and overwhelming him: then came a snap, and he felt nothing further. It was clear at the time that he did not know that the operation had been performed, and this subsequent statement clearly shows that he must have been entirely unconscious."

"Considering the nature of the ether vapour, and the mode in which it influences the sentient and moving power, we may infer that its influence on the sensorium is analogous to that of intoxicating liquors introduced into the stomach. Many years ago, a middle-aged woman was brought into St. Bartholomew's, drunk, with a compound fracture and other serious injury of the leg requiring amputation. Having reflected on the circumstances, I could see no reason why the state of intoxication should prevent the performance of an operation absolutely necessary, and I accordingly removed the limb at once above the knee in the ward. The gentlemen present and myself were perfectly satisfied that the

If the conduct of the medical journalists and teachers and so many others of the medical profession is reprehensible in regard to the powers of mesmerism in *safely* preventing surgical pain, it is not less reprehensible in regard to the powers of mesmerism in the treatment of diseases.

We can proudly point to the stately pile of cures amassed in *The Zoist*:—cures surpassing those by ordinary medicine, because effected with no disgusting, harshly or uncomfortably acting drugs, exhausting measures, or torturing external applications; because effected in many instances, after all ordinary means had been long employed in vain; and because such cures in many cases were never before effected by art. I boldly challenge our opponents to produce such an array of cures. Among them stand out prominently the cure, by the wife of the Archbishop of Dublin, of perfect blindness of twenty-six years standing; and the cure of genuine cancer. The former astonishing cure has never been even alluded to by any English medical journal. The latter has been spoken of in a way which must, like their dead silence upon the cure of blindness, lower the medical profession in the opinion of the world. Mr. Wakley wrote thus in his *Lancet* of Nov. 11th, 1848,—

"The pretended cure of a cancer by mesmerism, as announced in a pamphlet, is one of the *grossest puffs* we have ever seen. It cannot deceive any medical practitioner who is acquainted with his profession. It appears that the treatment commenced in 1843, and the tumor did not disappear until 1848. *Hundreds*, and even *thousands* of similar tumors, supposed to have been cancers, disappear from the breasts of females in half those years, and under every variety of treatment that can be made. Under the system of pressure, as practised by the late Mr. Young, tumors of double the size were completely absorbed in less than six months; some in two or three months. Mr. Young published scores of such cases, and the attestations to his accuracy were respectable and conclusive. Many tumors, apparently of a true scirrhous nature, have been promptly absorbed under the admirable system of pressure first adopted and recommended by Dr. Neil Arnott. In a few weeks beneficial effects have been produced, the patients have been relieved, both from their sufferings and their swellings. It is time that the obscenities of mesmerism should engage the attention of the heads of families, and all persons who uphold the character of English society for its purity and morality. The statements which are occasionally sent to us are descriptive of scenes which are highly disgusting. Why do not its medical advocates transfer the practice to the hands of females, since

patient was unconscious of the proceeding, though, being subsequently jeered on the subject by some of her fellow patients, she contended that she knew what was done at the time, but did not feel pain." See also *Zoist*, No. XXIII., p. 286: for the advantage of chloroform, see XXV., p. 40.

in nineteen cases out of twenty, the patient, alias the victim, alias the particeps criminis, is a female. This of course would not suit the object of the benevolent masculine mesmeriser. Whatever may become of the delusion called mesmerism, we are resolved, provided we are duly aided by our professional brethren, that the obscenities of mesmerism shall be no longer practised with impunity."

The public ought to know that surgeons are obliged to cut away cancerous and other tumors as often as before the time of Messrs. Young and Arnott, and never employ their methods, because pressure has proved a complete failure. Dr. Heath, who was resident medical officer of the Middlesex Hospital when Mr. Young was allowed to make his trials there for a year, and witnessed them all, is now in London, at the York Hotel, York Terrace, Regent's Park, and assures me that the plan was worse than a failure. It caused great pain; adherence of the tumors to the subjacent parts; effusion into the chest; difficulty of breathing, &c.; and not one patient was cured. I have been applied to respecting Dr. Arnott's patients on account of the extreme suffering, mischief, and failure of his mode of applying pressure by bags of air or water. The friends of one lady told me, a few days ago, that, after dreadful suffering, suppuration occurred and death from exhaustion, after he had tried his plan upon her.

On reading Mr. Wakley's bold assertions, I wrote to one of the surgeons of St. Thomas's Hospital, Mr. South, who is translating a celebrated modern German work on all surgery, and adding notes to perfect it with the recent English facts. He answered me that he had found the pressure plan a complete failure, and had long ceased to trouble himself about it; but that he would enquire in the profession if anything had turned up in its favour, and let me know. His letter was dated Dec. 20th, 1848, and I have not heard from Mr. South since. The world who fancied that Mr. Wakley had detected imposition in my experiments may learn from this alone how much confidence is to be placed in what he unhesitatingly says.

The *Provincial Journal,* conducted by Drs. Streeten and Ranking, thus speaks of it,—

"The only surgical opinion of repute which he quotes, (that of the late Mr. Samuel Cooper,) calls it 'a painful tumor, which was believed to be of a cancerous nature,' thus throwing doubt as to its cancerous nature at all. The evidence, then, amounts to this:—A woman has a painful tumor of the breast, very like cancer, which, in five years of that very critical period of her life—between 42 and 47 years, is absorbed, her general health having greatly improved, and during this period she was mesmerised, with some intervals. *Valeat quantum valere potest.* If this is to be considered as medical

evidenee, such as medieal men will believe, so as to induee them to recommend or try a new plan, open to the gravest objeetions, we should feel ashamed of our profession. But that national common sense and judgment whieh the practice of medicine (especially in the provinces, where responsibility is not much divided) fosters, is a guarantee against the propagation of such 'mental fevers.'"

"That mesmerism oecasionally produees the phenomena of somnambulism, catalepsy, and hysteria, every one who has studied the evidence must believe; but the whole proeess is so repulsive to men of clear, clean minds, and is so open to the vilest abuse, that any benefits which may accrue from it are thought to be too dearly purchased. We thank Dr. F. Hawkins for openly and boldly stating the general opinion. Dr. Elliotson considers it a stigma that the medical profession neglected the faets of insensibility produced by mesmerism, but at once employed ether and chloroform. Nothing, in our minds, proves more the real soundness of the morals of the medical body. Bodily health is a good thing, but there is something better. It is the pure in heart who see God."

One of these editors, Dr. Ranking,* has ignored all our painless surgical operations, ealled us misehievous praetitioners, taking up mesmerism, homœopathy, and sueh like *vagaries;* and yet in the same artiele gives an aeeount of a healthy female who had a string tied round her breast to remove a tumor of it. "She bore the initiatory steps of the operation without a murmur, without failure of pulse, and without ehange of countenanee. *The instant the ligature was tightened, which it was with the full force of two surgeons, she gave a yell of agony, the pulse became imperceptible, the countenance became ghastly pale, and in eighteen hours she was a corpse!!*"

Mr. S. Cooper, who was always a very timid, reserved man, unaequainted with mesmerism, and at the moment in his death-bed, full of grief at his treatment by University College, so that he seemed uneasy at writing anything whieh he was told by me I should publish, had never doubted for a moment that it was eaneer, but advised its excision without delay. After I left him he told Mr. Broxholm of Chertsey that it really had been a true caneer, and that it really now was entirely gone. Surely the various surgeons who saw it were as eapable as any others of forming an opinion. Dr. Ashburner and myself, from having been attaehed to hospitals all our lives, have had ample experienee to judge of caneer: and I ask the *Provincial Journal,* if the deseription of this *hereditary* ease were given to a eandidate at his examination at the College of either Physieians or Surgeons, and he did not answer that it was a caneer, he ought not to be turned baek as unfit to prac-

* He publishes half-yearly abstracts of medical novelties. See *Zoist*, XIX., 291.

tise? The case admitted of no doubt, so distinctly was it marked. Whether the cancerous disposition in the frame would have been eradicated by mesmerism, I dare not say.

Such splendid facts in the alleviation and cure of human suffering may have no attraction to men of *clear* and *clean* minds,—men *pure in heart* and who *see God!* These are noble, candid *Englishmen,* who write thus; high minded, high bred *gentlemen;* humble, meek, and brother-loving *Christians,* asked by the beloved disciple of him whose followers they are always proclaiming themselves, "He that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath *not seen?*"* This is pre-eminently the day of cant.

I lately had a letter from Miss Aglionby, of whom Dr. Thomas Mayo† wrote in so discreditable a manner, after a conversation with the Rev. Dr. Maitland, as I happen to know. That injured lady writes, "I have to thank you for your kind defence of me against Dr. Mayo's aspersions, which, however, did not trouble me much. Mesmerism has done me much more good than he can ever do me harm. If the good doctor had deigned to read over my case attentively before he attacked me, he might have seen that though I was 'possessed,' as he calls it, by Mr. Nixon, I was still more strongly influenced by a crystal; but that, perhaps, might be equally horrifying to an antimesmerist. As to 'husbands, fathers, and brothers objecting,' my brother-in-law (a clergyman) kindly continued the mesmeric treatment six weeks after Mr. Nixon ceased to attend me. But enough of this subject: we mesmerists,—whether insignificant like myself, or the leader and apostle of the cause like you,—must all make up our minds to be reviled and slandered."

But although these editors, in their shallow course of temporary expediency, not thinking that they must soon come aground, ignore all the facts of *The Zoist,* they publish whatever they fancy to make against mesmerism. The editor of the *Medical Gazette* published the report of the Calcutta committee without reference to *The Zoist,* which report I published in No. XVII. It was drawn up by men quite ignorant of mesmerism, and violently prejudiced against the subject, and thus unfit, intellectually and morally, for the task. I exposed the report in the same number, and published the exposure of it made by the honest, manly editors of all the India newspapers, who set a noble example to certain cowardly English editors of newspapers who have witnessed mesmerism a hundred times in private houses, profess their belief in private, and receive *The Zoist,* promise great

* 1 John iv., 20. † *Zoist,* No. XXIV., p 378.

assistance to the cause continually, and yet allude to it about once in two years, and then take great care not to commit themselves.* Dr. Esdaile demolished all the sayings and doings of his weak official visitors, as may be seen in No. XXII., p. 158. But not a word of all this did Dr. A. Taylor insert in his *Gazette*, and I wonder that his employers, Messrs. Longman, allow such conduct, as if they had the feelings of mere tradesmen. Though they publish none of the benefits of mesmerism, the editor of the *Medical Gazette*† published an account by a Dr. Sharkey, of Jersey, of the alleged ill effects of mesmerism in two cases. A boy was said to have become epileptic, and a girl to have been convulsed. And no wonder; for the ignorant person who mesmerised the boy, not being able to wake him (mesmerism being, of course, all imposition), various persons attempted, and frightened the poor child into fits: the same was probably the cause in the girl. Epilepsy often arises from fright: in the mesmeric state there is always sensitiveness; and violent means and the interference of strangers may, of course, frighten the subject into fits. The girl is said only to have suffered some inconvenience afterwards. Nothing more likely, if ignorant persons play with mesmerism. However, no names or addresses are given. A friend of mine—Colonel Davidson, resident in Jersey now for five years and a half, and much occupied with mesmerism, never heard of these cases, and has made every enquiry about them, but in vain, and the Dr. Sharkey has left the island. Dr. Dickson, of Jersey, who prohibits his patients from being mesmerised, has never appealed to these cases.

To show the feeling of the *Medical Times*, I quote the following passage from a recent number:—‡

"The absence of his Holiness from Rome appears to have offered a vacancy in the art of miracle-mongery, which has been seized upon by the mesmerisers: but their triumph has been of short duration, as might have been easily foreseen. At Rome it is a sacrilege for any one, save a priest, to work a miracle. This fact seems to have escaped the sagacity of M. La Fontaine, an authority among the mesmerisers, who recently visited the 'Holy City' and then opened a shop on his own account, at a meeting, attended, as we are informed, (in a letter from Rome,) by all the medical men in modern Babylon. Mr. La Fontaine injected the mesmeric fluid into the ears of two young deaf and dumb persons, who immediately received the faculty of hearing. For his pains, he received a pressing invitation to betake

* Such men dare not imitate the conduct of the *Morning Herald*, which boldly published my account of Rush; nor of the *Family Herald*, which sells to an immense amount, and has no fear of leading the public to a knowledge of mesmerism and *The Zoist*.

† March 12th, 1847. ‡ November 17th, 1849.

himself elsewhere,—proving the truth of the old adage, that two of a trade can never agree."—Nov. 17th., 1849.*

The editor of the *Medical Gazette,* in ecstacy informed his readers last October 12th, that a book exists called the Miraculous Nonconformist, which shews that a man named Greatrakes practised mesmerism in the seventeenth century and cured as well as we do now. Medical editors either calculate upon a high amount of ignorance in the profession or are grossly ignorant themselves. In No. IX., April, 1845, I quoted this work, and published an engraving of Greatrakes mesmerising, and in the first number of *The Zoist* (April, 1843) had given an account of him. But his wonderful cures have always been known to the mesmeric world. This learned editor tells his readers, as great news, that "one fact appears conclusive,—this mode of cure by the hands was known a century before Mesmer was born." If Dr. A. Taylor was as informed as Messrs. Longman and Co. have a right to expect him, he would know that *The Zoist*† has shewn mesmerism to have been long known in India and Greece, and even in the times of the ancient Jews.‡

* A gentleman called upon me lately, saying he was Dr. Bushman and foreign editor of the *Medical Times*, that I had shewn him some politeness many years ago, and that he was *quite ignorant* of mesmerism, but very anxious to see something of it, and would be obliged to me if I would give him an opportunity. I immediately offered to shew him some cases, and we fixed an evening and hour. He then begged permission to bring his son. To this also I assented. I had my patients ready; and expected him the whole evening. He never came, nor has he ever sent an excuse. This anecdote and the quotation are in harmony.

† Nos. X., p. 156; XI., p. 304; XIX., p. 273; XXIII., p. 250, 263; XXVIII., p. 361.

‡ Dr. A. Taylor is as ignorant of phrenology and equally inveterate against it. He calls it a flimsy science, and inserts any trash which is sent him against it by persons equally ignorant with himself, whereas he copies not one of those unanswerable confirmations of it which appear in *The Zoist*. Our adversaries were all mute respecting Rush.

I may be excused for relating in a foot-note something personal, but finely illustrating the malevolent spirit of medical editors towards mesmerists themselves. In the late Dr. James Johnson's *Medico-Chirurgical Review*, some of the attacks in which upon mesmerism are too vulgar and *obscene* for quotation in *The Zoist*, was, on Oct. 1, 1846, a review of my Harveian Oration, which is said to be chiefly occupied with *bald* and *profitless tales* about Linacre, Caius, and other old fellows of the College, and with a *dreary* account of the disputes about the circulation of the blood in Harvey's time. For the folly and untruth of all this, I refer with pride to the oration. "The narrative," however, is said to be "enlivened with *random* remarks, some of which are really very amusing. For example, four of the silly opposers of Harvey's views are thus summarily consigned to rest: requiescunt in pace. '*Simon Boullotius cum Hugone Chalesio, Franciscus quoque Bazin cum Philippo Hardouino suo;*

'—— not a pinch of dust remains of Cheops.'

Sanguis autem illum suum 'motum circularem' etiam nunc improbus tenet.' The classicality of the Latin (ILLUM SUUM is surely Elliotsonian) is strangely set off by the English quotation." The unacquaintance with Latin on the part of the anonymous writer is equal to his inability to perceive the truths and

If the mass of practitioners are kept in the dark and prejudiced by the journalists, they are not the less injured by those to whom they are in the habit of looking up in practice, and in many cases most absurdly. The treatment of insanity requires the greatest improvement; for, in our insane establishments, with a superabundance of means, no advances in the knowledge of the disease are made; nor in the cure, beyond preserving the general health, making the patients comfortable, and doing them no harm, as doctors formerly always did. Those who obtain their living by insanity know no more about the philosophy of the disease or its treatment than the ordinary practitioners outside the buildings who practise in every thing: and yet they pride themselves upon despising mesmerism. Dr. Conolly many years ago wrote what will be found in *Zoist*, No. VII., pp. 275-7, and lately advertised his disbelief of mesmerism,* as though he knows more about it than any of his keepers. The world will not endure this much longer, when they have learnt that out of 74 insane persons mesmerised by Dr. Kean in the last two years, 64 were discharged to all appearance cured. While a few surgeons of India, no less than *all* the newspaper editors, show in fine contrast with those of Great Britain, so do the

character of my oration. The expression—*illum suum* is the union of a demonstrative with a possessive pronoun, common not only in Latin but in all the few other languages that I understand. "Do have a little mercy upon me and THESE MY naughty brother editors," would be good English in a medical journal. In speaking of the modesty of Socrates, Cicero says, "SUUM ILLUD, *nihil ut affirmet, tenet ad extremum*," (*Tusc. Quæst.*, i., 42.) This writer also calculates, like Mr. Wakley, upon the ignorance of his professional readers and the power of boldness, or, what is more probable, knows no better. For the editors of the English medical journals and their contributors spell many words usually wrong, writing phymosis, paraphymosis, aneurismus, &c. Perhaps he may be interested in the following letter from a highly educated and most distinguished man:—

"My dear Dr. Elliotson,—I have had great pleasure in reading your very admirable oration, which I have done in both the languages in which it is written, and am much charmed with the ingenious elegance of the Latin, and the simple boldness with which you have surmounted many technical difficulties in your subject, in that very classical piece of scholarship; and still more pleased, as well as instructed, by the more important essentials in the matter and argument.

"I think the manliness of your appeal one of your finest efforts on behalf of the only true mode of following science, viz., experiment of what is before the eyes, with that proper mixture of faith and diffidence which teaches us both the illimitable resources of nature and the little knowledge we have as yet acquired of her secrets.

"Most obediently your's,
"E. BULWER LYTTON.

"James Street."

* *Zoist*, No. XXIV., p. 369. This is worth referring to. He might learn much of the philosophy of insanity from the account of Miss Collins's case in Nos. XI., XII.

physicians concerned with the insane. Let Dr. Conolly study the enlightened conduct of Dr. Strong and Dr. Kean.

The immense majority of cures of insanity are spontaneous: and, if more cures take place now than formerly, it is because doctors do less mischief than formerly. All who have friends insane should insist upon an ample trial being made of mesmerism, notwithstanding Drs. Conolly, Munro, Morrison, and nearly the whole band of insanity doctors, childishly sneer at the mention of mesmerism.*

The mass of practitioners are encouraged to despise mesmerism equally by those who happen to practise among the higher orders. Sir James Clark, though I was once at the trouble to shew him the wonders of the Okeys, was unable to appreciate them, and smiles with pity upon those who believe in mesmerism. Dr. H. Holland, when Mr. Chenevix was here, argued to me in the words of Cuvier and La Place that mesmerism was highly probable, but now considers it folly: for the late Bishop of Norwich, just before his death, told a reverend friend of mine that one of his family had procured sleep by its means and been wonderfully benefitted when all other means had failed, but that "when he mentioned it to Holland, Holland only laughed at him." Dr. Bright tells those patients who ask his opinion upon mesmerism, that it is "all chicanery." Dr. Fergusson continually discourages its use, though before some persons he appears favourable to it: and a lady, whose neuralgia both he and Sir B. Brodie had failed to relieve, told me that he one day began to mesmerise her himself, but that Sir B. Brodie entered the room, and said, "that's all nonsense; it will do no good;" and he instantly desisted. Dr. Chambers told Baron de Goldsmid that it was all humbug; that he had never seen

* Would any one believe that Dr. Conolly lately made the following observations in a lecture at the College of Physicians?

"The yet unsettled state of many important questions relative to the nervous system, and the revolutions even now taking place in its theories, or the mere rising up of doubts respecting that great theory of sensation and movement, which it was once supposed the labours of Sir Charles Bell had settled on some foundation, a subject ingeniously alluded to by Dr. Gull, Gulstonian lecturer, a week or two ago from this place—tend at least to enforce caution, to lessen our reliance on mere experiments, and to direct our attention more closely to structure and to function in health and disease.

"Men now of middle age find the whole face of physiology to have changed since they were students, and the most important parts of the change are quite recent. They cannot but learn from this to abstain from the premature endeavours yet to construct imperishable theories, and to be content still to observe and to record. The veil which surrounds our senses is but gradually and slowly permitted to be withdrawn, and it is neither useful nor wise to hasten to positive conclusions, as if we had already seen all the glorious things that are behind it; and which, if ever fully to be known by man, successive men and ages will alone be permitted to disclose."—*Lancet*, Oct. 20, 1849.

it, would not go and see it; and, if he did, he would not believe it.* This is the language always held by Sir B. Brodie and so many physicians and general practitioners at the west end of town who aspire to fashionable practice and almost all model themselves upon him, though a very limited person.

The Colleges of Physicians and Surgeons and the Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society refuse their members an opportunity of reading *The Zoist* or other mesmeric works. The College of Physicians allows its Fellows to stigmatize at its meetings those Fellows who are mesmerists as lewd quacks and impostors, without calling to account those who utter such language or those who are thus accused. Of course I shall never attend a meeting or take part in the affairs of the College again while this impunity continues. Mr. Stanley was lately President of the College of Surgeons. It was he who introduced the account of the Nottinghamshire mesmeric amputation to the Society, and he told me at the time that the case was most satisfactory: for his words were, "it is as *clean* a case as ever was published,"—TERES ATQUE ROTUNDUS. Mr. Green is now President, and he, having imbibed all the opinions of Coleridge and seen mesmerism thirty years ago in Germany, acknowledges its truth in private. For a gentleman informed me that, when London was full of the phenomena of the Okeys, he said, "Why I knew all this years ago: but mind don't say anything about it." He will surely do better than Mr. Stanley, and order *The Zoist*. The Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society, being a more open institution, will not go on much longer without it.

The younger men of the profession are now beginning to see that their seniors and leaders have played them a bad trick; and are daily expressing to me their anxiety to learn the truths of mesmerism. Few medical persons now longer

* I was out of town and the Baron consulted Dr. Chambers, who asked who had attended him. "Dr. Elliotson." "Oh, that gentleman who has always some new fancy in his head, and now he has got mesmerism." "Why, don't you believe its truth, Dr. Chambers?" "No; and I would not believe it if I saw it," &c. To all this I am accustomed. When I established the good effects of prussic acid, Dr. Chambers with others succeeded for a long while in keeping it out of the Pharmacopœia: when I established the use of quinine, he said across me at the College of Physicians that its name would not be remembered in a twelvemonth: when I advocated the stethoscope, he long called it humbug, just the thing for me to rave about, a thing that he never heard any sensible man speak in favour of. I have now lived to see him habitually prescribe quinine and prussic acid, and habitually use the stethoscope in consultation with me. I repeat this now in order to say that it is anything but highminded in gentlemen not to confess that formerly they were wrong, and did me injustice. Dr. Chambers did me infinite harm for twenty years: but I never retorted.

For Dr. Seymour's language in regard to mesmerism, see *Zoist*, No. XX., p. 370. He calls all stethoscopists fools,—see my *Numerous Cases*, p. 61.

dare to call it humbug: but their tack is to call it dangerous. They most unscrupulously, and without any reason, being altogether ignorant of it, tell patients who wish for it that it excites the brain and causes insanity. I knew a royal physician, a secret believer in mesmerism, who was attending a lady with cancer of the uterus, and of course did her no good. Her son, understanding mesmerism, wished to mesmerise her: but the physician forbad it: preferring that the poor woman should be unrelieved rather than it be said that he had sanctioned mesmerism. I know another physician, formerly a fellow of a college in Cambridge, who had ceased to prescribe for a case of consumption, saying that he could do no good: but, when asked if the patient's earnest wish to be mesmerised might be gratified, forbad it, and, though a relation, said he would never attend her again if it were done. It is very common for medical persons to oppose mesmerism violently in cases where they have long declared they could neither cure nor benefit the sufferer.

I knew a surgeon who many years ago cut off a limb in mesmeric insensibility: but now is absolutely enamoured of chloroform, and declares mesmerism never strengthens any one. He gave a patient 500 drops of laudanum a day, absolutely refusing to mesmerise her, when he knew that she might be sent to sleep in two minutes, and had always received inexpressible benefit from it: and he added that he knew I should not think of mesmerising her. I did mesmerise her daily as soon as she arrived in town: and at the end of a week she left off her opium altogether, and went to the opera twice a week, as well as to other places every day: generally drove out twice in the day. She had made the journey to London in two days, and arrived in a state that shocked me, such as I had not seen her in before. She returned home in *one* day, and was able to take her usual walk and drive the day after, notwithstanding an attack of English cholera which had thrown her back before she left town. This person's conduct in regard to mesmerism is truly lamentable, and arises, I feel certain, from his desire not to be thought a favourer of mesmerism by his rich patients who laugh at it, and by the fashionable doctors in London with whom he is often in consultation. If he had made but a dozen passes daily before her, a sweet sleep would have been produced, and she would have been spared loads of opium, which only accelerated and aggravated her returns of agony and made her wretched, and she would have been spared many weeks of agony and such exhaustion that, whenever he saw a servant going in the direction from the mansion, he expected it was to announce her

sinking. She grew worse and worse till he was frightened, and anxious that she should come to town. And yet she gave him every hint and silent entreaty to mesmerise her: and he knew that I had years ago given as much as 1200 drops of laudanum in a day, with no alleviation of the pain but rather an acceleration of the returns, and violent subsequent vomiting, and then cured all rapidly by mesmerism only. He said at last that mesmerism might do good as she had *faith* in it! but for no other reason: and yet he once knew that a patient in Nottinghamshire, who was mesmerised before his leg was cut off, got better nights and was improved in strength by the mesmerism before the operation. He knew that she said the sleep from opium was less refreshing than mesmeric sleep.

"Oh! what different sleep it is from mesmeric sleep!" she wrote to me. . . . "I can scarcely understand his object in not mesmerising me, unless he wishes to be able to say that he has never tried it in any case, for I have often told him how susceptible I was; and he has often during my illness remained with me three or four hours in the morning and two at night, if not more."

Once she wrote,—

"Last Thursday I thought I never could have lived through the night: twenty-four hours of almost constant pain had reduced me to almost the last stage of weakness—pain which mesmerism would have saved me, but which laudanum failed in relieving; for it would not then remain on my stomach. If I had wanted any further conviction of the advantages which I have derived from it in former illnesses, this present illness might convince the most incredulous by the difference. This time I have hardly been above three or four days without some relapse; when I was so ill in London and you were mesmerising me, from the second, if not quite the first day, I began to mend without a drawback: but alas! I fear all hope of my being able to have it done here is in vain."

This was a lady of high rank: and mesmerism is a thing which ought to be accessible without a farthing of expense to the poorest person—for any body in health can mesmerise. This was *legitimate* medicine and legitimate suffering.

Some medical men tell patients that mesmerism can do no good, as it works solely on the imagination. To say nothing of the untruth of this, why should not a cure by imagination be as good a cure as any other? A lady at Bristol, who could not turn in her bed before she was mesmerised, astonished her friends one day by walking into the square; and she had been subjected to the annoyance of a medical friend making that assertion.

Professor Christison, of Edinburgh, considers mesmerism quackery. A lady, whose father was in a hopeless state, wrote

me word that she called upon him to speak to him about mesmerism: he told her he thought some one had played a joke upon her in giving her the idea that he believed in such quackery; that such a person as Professor Gregory might believe in it, but that he did not. She heroically replied that Professor Gregory was an honest man, and, as such, had found himself under the necessity of examining the subject and announcing his conviction of its truth.

The public know the ridiculous figure that medical men at Bristol have cut in eagerly announcing the discovery of imaginary organized bodies in the case of cholera, and their contest for priority in discovering what never existed and establishing the fungoid theory. Yet these very men refuse to examine obvious facts, and facts of the highest practical importance. A young surgeon read a case of great mesmeric benefit, at the Medical Meeting at Bristol. Dr. Budd,* who was so cruelly nipped by the further researches of Mr. Busk and other able men, rose and protested against mesmerism being introduced to the notice of the association. One surgeon, now in the council of the association, told him, as they were driving to the meeting, that he ought to be kicked out of the association for introducing the subject to it.

In a dreadful case of cancer, in a west of England city, when the medical men procured no relief, her brother-in-law procured her tranquil sleep, but the whole had to be kept a secret from the doctors, who violently opposed the employment of mesmerism.†

But enough of all this. May the rising generation of medical men remember the words of the late Rev. Dr. Chalmers respecting the first reception of the Newtonian Philosophy,

"AUTHORITY *scowled upon it,* TASTE *was disgusted by it, and* FASHION *was ashamed of it.*"‡

Let them think also of the following paragraph in Sir E. Bulwer Lytton's late powerful and elevated novel of *The Caxtons,*—

"'*Know* thyself,' said the old philosopher. '*Improve* thyself,' saith the new. He (Vivian) still fancies that all he has to do is to

* A physician among that family of Budds, and resident at Plymouth or Exeter, returned to the late Mr. Bulteel, son-in-law of the late Earl Grey, my pamphlet on Painless Operations unopened, refusing to read it. Another, in London, loudly condemned in the College of Physicians my being allowed to deliver the Harveian Oration, and he has thus secured posthumous fame.

† A retired physician wrote this to me upon the affair:—"What a monstrous thing it is, that such prejudice and moral cowardice should stand between suffering humanity and a remedy designed by heaven to mitigate pain! 'It is,' as my correspondent justly remarks, '*a great thing even to ease a patient of extreme pain without having recourse to medicines.*'"

‡ See my *Human Physiology,* p. 397.

get money and power, and some of those empty prizes in the great lottery, which are often won more easily by *our sins than our virtues.*"

I am anxious to make a few observations to the public on the choice of mesmerisers. A very large number of those who profess to mesmerise do not a hundredth part of the good they might, and thus injure individual patients and the progress of the subject. It is difficult to find a professed mesmeriser who gives me satisfaction. Too many are full of whims of their own and act the quack, talking as if possessed of extraordinary knowledge, making all sorts of displays in their methods, in fact, playing all sorts of antics, and talking all sorts of nonsense. Many of my patients have been made so nervous by these mesmerisers as to be unable to continue to employ them. Some thoughtlessly talk all the time. Now a good mesmeriser works in silence, and allows no talking in the room, nor anything else that can excite the patient. The passes should be made very slowly, or they may excite rather than calm, and may prevent sleep. The mesmeriser should look earnestly at the patient, and be absorbed in the attempt to produce a silent influence. It is in general best to persevere with one method, for the diversifying the attempt is very likely to excite the curiosity and wonder of the patient and prevent repose. One sort of passing, or mere pointing, or gazing, may, for some unknown reason, suit one patient better than another: but, when a patient, by mere continuance of attempts, has become affected, the method employed at the moment of success is likely from association to be afterwards, at least for a long while, far more effectual, if not even exclusively effectual, than others. I would not allow a patient of mine to be mesmerised by one who, while the process is going on, talks at all,* or laughs, or makes quick passes, snaps his fingers, makes flourishes, or plays any monkey tricks; or is careless and listless. All should be done calmly and even solemnly: for mesmerism is a serious, holy thing. There is no occasion to hold the hands, or sit with knees against knees; or in general to touch the patient at all. And all may be done as well by the operator standing to one side of the patient as opposite. There is no occasion for the operator to vibrate his hands or head, or make any muscular effort. The best mesmerisers are those who do all quietly and gently.

Some persons, whom I have recommended as mesmerisers,

* When sleep-waking is induced, a pleasant, or even lively, conversation is generally very useful.

have taken the liberty of passing an opinion upon the medical treatment which I had prescribed at the same time; or where there was no other treatment, of suggesting medical treatment. One person, quite ignorant of medicines, took the liberty of applying leeches when exhaustion forbad any such measures: one introduced a foreigner to assist her in mesmerising, who was a linendraper in Brussels and passed himself off as a doctor, and he mesmerised and prescribed. Some, instead of simply mesmerising, as I directed, introduced pretended clairvoyants, absolute impostors.* I advise all medical men to allow nothing of this sort when they employ mesmerisers. But, on the other hand, they should not interfere with the mesmeriser, or take any measures without conferring with him, provided they understand nothing of it and he is a fully informed and discreet mesmeriser.

Some amateur mesmerisers do injury to the cause by their want of perseverance. If they produce no benefit, or no sensible effect, in the first few trials, of perhaps only a quarter of an hour each, they give up the case. I wish such persons would never take a case in hand, because their failures must be very numerous, and the poor patient conceives that mesmerism, perhaps his last and only hope, is no remedy for him, and our adversaries register the more failures. In truth, mesmerism cannot be said to have failed under a trial of a year or more in chronic cases. Let no one mesmerise who is not prepared to give a daily trial of at least half an hour for many months or still longer.†

On the other hand, I must also entreat the afflicted never to begin mesmerism unless firmly resolved to give it a fair trial; and not to give it up because they are not better soon, or do not go to sleep. I often foolishly lose all patience with people, to whom I have explained the possibility of no effect

* I am satisfied that many clairvoyants are impostors: and many real clairvoyants impostors so far as to pretend they have the faculty in action when they have not. I place reliance on very few of them: so liable are they to deceive themselves, and so strong is the temptation to deceive others, from love of money or even mere vanity. If persons choose to take the chances of accuracy and error, they ought to pay: but why they should pay a medical or other man who keeps and lets out a poor clairvoyant, as Italian men keep and let out poor Italian boys, and pay him a fee, perhaps a sovereign, as well as five shillings to the clairvoyant who does the work, I know not. To let out clairvoyants is no very dignified occupation.

† I mesmerised Miss Bernal daily for nearly a year without producing sleep or other sensible effect, and did her no good whatever for months: yet I cured her triumphantly after the failures of a number of royal and fashionable practitioners had done her no good, but harm (*Zoist*, No. XVIII.) Let them remember that Mrs. Whately bestowed three years and a half upon her blind patient (No. XXV.) I bestowed above five years upon my case of cancer (No. XXIII.)

oeeurring for a length of time, and of benefit without sleep, returning or writing to me in a few days with a declaration that, as they felt nothing, they should not continue it. Some go about saying they cannot be sent to sleep because Mr. Somebody tried one day without effect. If a complaint is worth the trouble of curing, it is worth the trouble of submitting to a remedy causing neither pain nor annoyance, but requiring merely perseverance. Some give up in a few weeks or months. It is surprising how many persons in the world have no force of character: are only big children—holding silly opinions on various subjects of which they know nothing, and acting without reason or steadiness.

Postscript to Dr. Elliotson's Paper, &c.

When I spoke of the deaths from chloroform being, to my knowledge, far more numerous than the public imagine, and especially when administered in parturition, I had no doubt that this was the case in Scotland as well as in England. Since my paper was struck off, the following communication has appeared in the *Medical Gazette* of Dec. 22:—

"*Obstetric practice in Edinburgh.—The use of Chloroform.*

"Sir,—On reading in a late number of your journal, the able and interesting lecture of Dr. Barnes, 'on the rational and safe conduct of labour,' I was struck with the fact of the gradually increasing mortality from childbirth in Edinburgh during the years 1847 and 1848, having been exactly coincident with the introduction of chloroform and its extensive use in midwifery in that city. From Dr. Barnes's table it appears that in 1846 the proportion of deaths in childbed in Edinburgh was 1 in 116; in 1847 it had increased to 1 in 97; while in 1848 it had risen to 1 in 91. The *Record* newspaper, a few weeks since, *in leading article type*, brings forward some strong reasons '*to quicken medical men in other parts of the world as to the benefits of chloroform in midwifery*,' the chief of which is, that a few ladies with high sounding titles await in Edinburgh their approaching accouchement, drawn thither by the fame of chloroform, and it may be by such puffing paragraphs as that which makes mention of these things. We need have no fear, however, with such statistics as those of Dr. Barnes before us, that our professional brethren will be turned from the performance of the duties of their high office by any such considerations, even if they could look for the most abounding newspaper laudation as a reward. The following is extracted from the *Record* of Nov. 12:—

"'Chloroform.—It is generally known that no inconsiderable opposition to the use of this specific for pain under surgical operations and in female accouchements, is offered in the metropolis, and in many parts of England, as well as in France. In the Scottish metropolis, on the other hand, no such scruples exist. It is freely used on all occasions. . . . The effect of this difference of perception among the medical men of the two capitals, is operating in a way which we presume the opponents of chloroform did not anticipate, but which we think the most natural in the world. In a letter which we have seen from Edinburgh, it is said, 'Professor Simpson's share in its introduction is operating favourably on his own position and on that of this city. The Duchess of Argyle and Lady Blantyre are both expecting their confinement ere long, and with their mother, the Duchess of Sutherland, have taken large mansions in the town or neighbourhood. Besides these, there are others, titled and not titled, who have done the same; so that Edinburgh will be the gainer. 'Its great utility,' continues the writer, 'is, in this part of the world, considered altogether established.' Such facts as these will probably quicken the perceptions of medical men in other parts of the world as to the benefit of its use. Every improvement of the kind has to encounter great opposition. No medical man who had attained the age of forty years at the time of Harvey's discovery of the circulation of the blood, ever believed the fact.'

"I am, Sir, your's obediently,
"A. B. C."

I may mention, in reference to p. 381, that I have just received a note from Colonel Davidson, including one from Dr. Sharkey, written in Ireland, declaring that he forgets all about the second case; and giving no particulars respecting the first.

Colonel Davidson has discovered the young man, who is twenty years old and apprenticed to a butcher, was at the *National Schools, where mesmerism is forbidden,* but mesmerised by a French doctor five years ago, to whom he had applied for "doctor's stuff," because he had fits. "Then," asked Colonel Davidson, "you had the fits before you went to the doctor's for stuff?" "Yes, Sir." The boy has a sister affected also with epilepsy, who never has been mesmerised, and who, this Dr. Sharkey declared to the family, had become epileptic on seeing her brother in a fit. "And how soon afterwards did her epilepsy begin?" asked the Colonel. "Two years afterwards, Sir."

This is a sad business as regards Dr. Sharkey and the editor of the *Gazette*, and proves how eagerly assertions are made against mesmerism without any ground. Without the slightest reason hundreds of medical men are now telling patients that mesmerism causes, perhaps at the distance of years, insanity, fits, &c., &c. And the editor of the *Medical Gazette* declares that no one reads *The Zoist* but the *impostors* who publish their cases in it.*

* No. X., p. 201.

FINIS.

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CONTENTS OF THE TWO LAST NUMBERS

OF

THE ZOIST.

No. XXVII.

Dr. Esdaile's Testimony to the Reality of Clairvoyance. In a letter to Dr. Elliotson.

Cases of Cross-mesmerism, with some Remarks upon the Magnetic and Mesmeric Fluid. By Mr. W. Cattell

Note by Dr. Elliotson, on the Disturbances of Mesmeric Sleep-waking.

On the Ancient Magic Crystal, and its Connexion with Mesmerism. By Mr. Hockley.

Mesmerism and Chloroform in India. By Dr. Elliotson.

Great benefit, with remarkable Phenomena, in a severe and long-standing case of St. Vitus's Dance. By Mr. Barth.

Medical and Mesmeric Cure of Erysipelas contrasted; and Cure of a Chronic Inflammation of the Gums. By Mr. Barth.

Cure of a Case of supposed Consumption, and of one of Chronic Intermittent Intestinal Hæmorrhage. By Mr. Joseph Hands.

Cure of a Case of Scalded and Stiff Arm, and of one of Scrofulous Sores. By the Wife of a distinguished Mathematical Philosopher.

Cure of long-standing Epilepsy; with Clairvoyance and other Phenomena. By Miss Aglionby.

The unscrupulous Conduct of the *London Medical Gazette*, exposed by the *Morning Post*.

The Clairvoyance of Mr. Haddock's Subject. By Dr. Elliotson.

Death of Miss Barber.

Review of the Rev. Dr. Scoresby's Lectures on Mesmerism.

No. XXVIII.

Capital Punishment; or, Killing according to Law. With a Note by Dr. Elliotson

"Second half-yearly Report of the Calcutta Mesmeric Hospital. From 1st March to 1st September, 1849." With a Letter published in the *Calcutta Star* from a Visitor to the Hospital; and a private letter from Dr. Esdaile to Dr. Elliotson.

On the conduct of the British Medical Journalists, and nearly the whole of the Medical Profession, in reference to the greatest of medical blessings: with some hints to the Public on Mesmerisers. By Dr. Elliotson.

Cases of Insanity, severe Nervous Affections, Hypochondriasis, Deafness, &c. By Henry Storer, M.D., Bristol, Physician to the Bristol Mesmeric Institute.

Review of "Illustrations and Enquiries relating to Mesmerism, Part I., by the Rev. S. R. Maitland, D.D., F.R.S., F.S.A., some time Librarian to the late Archbishop of Canterbury, and Keeper of the MSS. at Lambeth. London: William Stephenson."—pp. 82.

A few of Mr. Capern's Cures.

Review of M. Alphonse Cahagnet's Arcanes de la Vie Future Dévoilés, &c. By the Rev. George Sandby, Vicar of Flixton, Suffolk.

Thought-reading and Clairvoyance.

Clairvoyance reported by the celebrated John Wesley.

Spontaneous Sympathy—distant influence of thought.

Great relief from Mesmerism during ordinary treament in an affection of the Prostate Gland. By Mr. Henry Jacob, 35, Surrey Street, Strand.

Advantage of Mesmerism while ordinary treatment is adopted. By Mr. Armour.

Mesmerism in Africa, forty years ago. By Captain Bagnold.

On the boundaries of the Cerebral Organs.

Postscript to Dr. Elliotson's Paper (Article III.) and to his Note to the Mottos prefixed by him to Article VI.

This Number completes the Seventh Volume.